SECTION III - GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Hayland

Planning Resource Management Systems (RMS)

Successful resource management on hayland is the correct application of a combination of practices that will meet the needs of the total hayland ecosystem--the soil, water, air, plant, and animal (SWAPA+H) resources--and the objectives of the land user. The land user's objective must be consistent with the potential production capabilities of the resources.

The minimum criteria that must be met on hayland for each of the resource concerns is explained in Section III Quality Criteria of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

In planning a RMS for hayland, vegetation management is the foundation on which the RMS is built. Forage Harvest Management and Irrigation Water Management on irrigated hayland are ESSENTIAL for vegetation management to meet the needs of the SWAPA+H resources. Pest and Nutrient Management are ESSENTIAL practices if pesticides and/or nutrients are being applied.

All other practices planned on hayland are to facilitate the application of the vegetative management practices and are identified as FACILITATIVE practices, or are additional to treat an identified problem and are identified as ADDITIONAL practices. These ADDITIONAL practices are planned when necessary to treat specific resource problems to meet the criteria for managing the SWAPA+H resources.

Resource Management Systems include a combination of practices that are:

1. ESSENTIAL: These vegetative management practices are recommended to successful management of hayland and are generally planned in the RMS.

2. FACILITATIVE: These practices facilitate the vegetative management of the hayland.

3. ADDITIONAL: These practices are planned when necessary to cause or accelerate changes in the hayland ecosystem that cannot be achieved through application of vegetative management and facilitating practices. These practices become ESSENTIAL when conditions make their application necessary to achieve the quality criteria for the resource, and the landowner's objective.

A RMS on hayland is developed with the landowner through the planning process. A RMS generally includes the ESSENTIAL practices plus a combination of FACILITATIVE and/or ADDITIONAL practices whose combined effects will meet the criteria established for each resource (SWAPA+H). When multiple land use is an objective, the needs of each use and effects of each practice must be considered in the selection, application, and design of each practice to ensure compatibility.

Following is a listing of conservation practices divided in ESSENTIAL, FACILITATIVE, and ADDITIONAL categories. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. See FOTG Section IV for a complete list of practices and individual practice standards for applicable land uses.

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ESSENTIAL

Pest/Nutrient Management[1]
Forage Harvest Management
Irrigation Water Management[2]

FACILITATIVE

Residue Management
Riparian/Herbaceous Forest Buffer
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

ADDITIONAL

Deep Tillage
Irrigation System[3]
Prescribed Grazing
Toxic Salt Reduction
Pasture and Hay Planting
Pest/Nutrient Management
Conservation Crop Rotation
Surface and Subsurface Drainage
Upland and/or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

The following guide sheets give examples of a RMS on hayland. Resource settings and problems are described and combination of practices outlined to develop a RMS to meet the cooperators objectives and the quality criteria for the resource problems identified.

The Guide Sheets are to be used as guides only to help understand the thought process used during the planning process to assess the effects of conservation practices on the considerations and problems associated with the five resources.

[1] If pesticides and/or nutrients are used
[2] If land is irrigated
[3] If land is irrigated